

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ECON, ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH GOC

REF: OTTAWA 1962

1. IN MORE FORMAL MEETING THAN THAT HELD ONE MONTH AGO (REFTEL) SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES LED BY BARCLAY, PRESIDENT, B.C. FOREST PRODUCTS, CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) TEAM, HEADED BY PRESIDENT MORRIS, MET APRIL 22 WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS MACDONALD, MUNRO, CHRETIEN, JAMIESON, CULLEN, AND TREASURY BOARD CHAIRMAN ANDRAS, IN WHAT DEPUTY LABOR MINISTER EBERLEE DESCRIBED TO US AS EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE.

2. GOC BRIEFLY OUTLINED GOVERNMENT THINKING ON POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTION OF ECONOMY CONTAINED IN GREEN PAPER TO BE RELEASED NEXT MONTH. GOC INVITED LABOR AND BUSINESS TO JOIN IN ESTABLISHING SIX-MAN COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER VARIOUS OPTIONS CONTAINED IN THIS PAPER AND TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON A MULTIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE FORUM. GOC MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE WILL BE DEPUTY LABOR
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MINISTER EBERLEE AND DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER SHOYAMA. LABOR AND BUSINESS WILL SELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES SHORTLY.

3. WHILE TRUDEAU HAD HOPED ALSO TO DISCUSS NATIONAL UNITY AT TODAY'S MEETING, TIME PERMITTED ONLY ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON DECONTROLS. IN RESPONSE TO PRIME

MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES OF RESTRAINT ONCE CONTROLS ARE LIFTED, BUSINESS AND LABOR WOULD ONLY GIVE COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SEEK RESTRAINT AMONG THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS. CLC PRESIDENT MORRIS ASSURED GOC HE PERSONALLY IS AWARE OF "FINITE LIMITS" OF ECONOMY BUT HE NEEDS MORE SPECIFICS AS TO WHEN AND HOW CONTROLS WOULD BE LIFTED AND TO KNOW MANAGEMENT'S POSITION BEFORE HE CAN COMMIT CLC TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN FOR MODERATING DEMANDS AMONG ITS AFFILIATES. BUSINESS IS STILL DIVIDED ON METHOD AND TIMING OF CONTROL TERMINATION. BOTH SIDES ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE SOME TYPE OF POST-CONTROLS MONITORING AGENCY WITH PROVISIO THAT THEY CAN NOMINATE MEMBERS FROM THEIR RANKS. LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WILL MEET NEXT WEEK BY THEMSELVES IN HOPES OF RETURNING LATER WITH AGREED POSITION ON DECONTROLS IN NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WITH GOC.

4. COMMENT: THIS FIRST FORMAL TRIPARTITE MEETING HAS BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL. AGREEMENT BY BUSINESS AND LABOR TO JOIN IN TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT ECONOMIC POLICY OPTIONS AND LAY GROUNDWORK FOR MULTIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE BODY IS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. CAUTIOUS ACCEPTANCE FOR POST-CONTROL RESTRAINT AND MONITORING AGENCY CAN BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IF RESPECTIVE BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERSHIP IS WILLING AND ABLE TO CONVINCE THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES. ENDERS

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